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Main title

WILD MEN
OF AFRICA

MAY -7 1921

Paramount-Vandenbergh Exploration Series. No.1

"JUNGLE DANCERS"

Edited and Titled by Tom McNamara

Passed by The National Board of Review

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(24ft.)

Subtitle

Foreword.

In presenting these motion pictures of savage life in Central Africa we wish to acknowledge the leadership of Dr. L. J. Vandenbergh, who directed the Expedition and the skill of Dr. George B. Shattuck who photographed this series.

27"

Dissolves into:

Subtitle

These explorers were at work for more than a year and penetrated to those remote districts first reached by Livingston, Baker and Stanley.

19"

Subtitle

CENTRAL AFRICA.

An untamed land of 13,000,000 savages -- their bodies smeared with grease to withstand the deadly rays of a merciless sun --- the air they breathe is like the blast from a furnace.

20"

Subtitle

Going into the wilds on safari. These human beasts of burden carry ~~from~~ very little inside their heads, but cheerfully tote sixty pounds or more on top of their skulls for hundreds of weary miles.

22"

Scene 1.

Long shot - the Expedition crossing a stream Safari. The native porters carrying the luggage on their heads. Gradually they come closer into view.

22"

Subtitle

A loafing place for the men and a drudge hole for the women --- a small village of grass and mat huts in Wanyika Land.

14"

Scene 2.

A small African village - medium view - women are pounding meal in native fashion - grinding corn in primitive ways - men stand behind and watch them work.

10"

Subtitle

These people are in constant dread of disease, witchcraft and wild beasts.

7"

Scene 3.

Same shot as scene 2. A semi-long shot of the other grass huts in the village - women working in foreground.

10"

Subtitle	The women blister their hands from working; the men blister their feet from watching.	10"
Scene 4.	Closeup of entrance to hut - women pounding meal in front of hut - children also working a primitive grinding stone - a tall male is standing by watching them.	9"
Subtitle-	Notice the two little girls learning to be women.	6"
Scene 5.	Closeup of little african girls in foreground using corn grinder. They are working industriously.	12"
Subtitle	When they have been real good, a husband allows his wives to feed him choice morsels of Mohogo root.	13"
Scene 6.	Female natives cutting and chopping down twig roots - husband seated cross-legged on ground eating the roots with great relish.	17"
Subtitle	In some African tribes, when twins are born, one of them is killed. The survivor clings to its mother like a baby gorilla.	15"
Scene 7.	Infant clinging to mother's back.	10"
Subtitle	A quaint custom. Two lower teeth are knocked out so that a native can be fed if attacked by lock jaw.	14"
Scene 8.	Closeup of native man - showing the lower teeth missing in center of mouth.	6"
Subtitle	Summoning the dancers to a native dance (Ngoma) which takes place after a death in the tribe.	11"
Scene 9.	Three natives summon the dancers - two beat tom toms and one blows a flute-like instrument.	7"
Subtitle	The chief dancers wear a leg harness of iron rattles.	5"
Scene 10.	Two dancers wearing regalia-- each wears a contraption with iron rattles.	11"
Subtitle	For every death -- a birth. Long live the tribe! The object of this dance is to promote marriage.	10"
Scene 11.	A long line of men dancing and shaking their leg rattles.	7"
Subtitle	With drums booming, horns screeching and rattles snarling, these dancers circle the field twisting their sleek bodies and chanting weird songs.	13"
Scene 12.	Continuation of the dance which increases in intensity.	10"
Subtitle	The men line up and shriek proposals of marriage to the girls.	6"

Scene 13.	The dancers of tribe whirl all around the field.	12ft
Subtitle	The girls then dance with the men.	4"
Scene 14.	The girls line up opposite the men, and they dance to one another.	6"
Subtitle	The ngoma now swells to a wild uproar of jumping reeking savages.	7"
Scene 15.	Men and women in a wild dance.	5"
Subtitle	After a marriage has been arranged a half crazed buck kicks the Devil of Death out of the village.	12"
Scene 16.	Natives gathered in a circle - keep time to the dance of two men, one leaps round in a circle and kicks out the evil spirits.	27"
Subtitle	In Wakamba about 200 miles west of Mombasa, teeth are chipped to sharp points -- the "Dentist" uses a rusty chisel.	9"
Scene 17.	Patient lying on his back while the "Dentist" chips his teeth with chisel.	8"
Subtitle	It is a painful process and the gums are badly lacerated, but no man can hope for a wife until his teeth are properly whittled.	20"
Scene 18.	Closeup of man on ground with his mouth open while Dentist chips away.	11"
Subtitle	These whittled teeth decay rapidly. They are then dug out and replaced with teeth of the Kongoni buck, which are hammered into the jaw. The owner can pull them out and examine them at pleasure.	16"
Scene 19.	Closeup of native exhibiting his mouth of teeth - he pulls one out and holds it up - then puts it back.	12"
Subtitle	Eyebrows are considered a handicap to beauty. Young men about the village spend their spare time yanking them out ----	11"
Scene 20.	Native squatted on ground pulling out his eyebrows with a tweezer.	8"
Subtitle	---- and to think of the trouble some of us have trying to raise one on our upper lip!	10"
Scene 21.	Native continues to pull out his eyebrows.	6"
Subtitle	These savages mutilate themselves to intensify their beauty. A crude pattern is first drawn on the skin with wet clay.	13"
Scene 22.	Two natives in medium view - one is drawing a design on the body of the female.	11"

Subtitle	The skin is then picked up with a little hook and cut with a rusty knife.	10ft
Scene 23.	The "Artist," cuts over the design he has made on the native's body.	14"
Subtitle	The wounds are irritated and result in scars -- you are about to see a "raving beauty"--- notice her head.	12"
Scene 24.	Native girl with head and face covered with artistic scarifications, and her ears full of perforations.	12"
Subtitle	Don't think these are lighting rods.	4"
Scene 25.	Three men, tall and handsome, with a funnel-like contrivance on their heads through which a woven thread of their hair is drawn.	4"
Subtitle	They're African Derbies.	3"
Scene 26.	The natives turn round and round exhibiting them and then begin to take the funnels off.	3"
Subtitle	An improvement over our kind, they can't blow off.	6"
Scene 27.	One native pulls his "pig tail" through the funnel-hat and removes the head piece - puts it back in same manner.	21"
Subtitle	Poodled hair. With sharp pieces of glass these damsels have shaved their heads into smart African coiffeurs.	12"
Scene 28.	Three good looking girls bend their heads and show their individual styles of head dress.	20"
Subtitle	Old ^{wo} men are considered useless and are very often put out of the way. Those wishing to cling to life band together and proclaim themselves witches.	20"
Scene 29.	Five old women stand in a close circle and do a queer dance while natives look on.	4"
Subtitle	Performing weird dances to impress the young people.	5"
Scene 30.	The "witches" still dancing.	9"
Subtitle	---- just a touch of "shimmy."	2"
Scene 31.	They face the camera and shake their bodies violently, shoulders and all. The shimmy movement is characteristic of all these African dances.	7"

Reel 1.

-5-

First Release.

Subtitle	The one with the horse tails on her arm was condemned to death, but escaped through trickery.	10"
Scene 32.	Women continue their dance in a circle now.	11"
Subtitle	There are no flies on her.	3"
Scene 33.	The dancer with the horsetails keeps hopping up and down and the hair swishes all around her, giving the appearance of a horse brushing flies from her.	11"
Subtitle	Baby is brought to the witch dance so he will grow up on the lucky side of life.	11"
Scene 34.	Women carrying baby on her back, comes to the dance.	5"
Subtitle	The widow and orphan of a warrior at the Temple of Sacrifice.	9"
Scene 35.	Women with child in open air Temple of Witches. - they kneel at the shrine.	3"
Subtitle	The Witch Doctor blows a sacred powder over the widow.	7"
Scene 36.	Witch performs rites over women and child.	9"
Subtitle	Then a chicken is sacrificed and its blood poured on the ground to appease the Spirit of Death.	21"
Scene 37.	Witch kills chicken and lets blood spill on ground.	15"
Subtitle	The trail into Kikuyu, fifty miles further west is almost impassable.	10"
Scene 38.	Scene of forest and waterfall - closeup of the waterfall.	17"

END OF REEL ONE

REEL 2.REEL 11FIRST RELEASE.

Subtitle	Some of the trails are so steep that even a goat cannot make its way unassisted.	10"
Scene	Medium view of party of natives going up steep cliff-like paths, goats also try to clamber up.	24"
Subtitle	A Kikuyu Village.	2"

Scene	Medium view of three grass huts in f.g. A few natives are pounding corn into meal in primitive fashion - a chicken struts around, watching for stray morsels of corn.	7ft
Subtitle	These people have acquired large herds by "borrowing" them from their neighbors in murderous raids.	12"
Scene	Shot of same village - cattle come browsing into the village followed by the herders who carry long spear-like sticks with which to prod the cattle.	19"
Subtitle	An animated scarecrow trying to save 50% of his corn crop from the birds.	9"
Scene	A solitary figure standing on an elevation, silhouetted against the sky, wildly waving his arms and screeching, endeavoring to rid his corn field of the pests.	11"
Subtitle	What the birds leave of the corn, Mama gathers and makes into soup.	8"
Scene	Close view, outside hut of native woman preparing the soup, in utensils made of tree bark and fibre - the process is that of soaking and squeezing out the corn juice in water. A little child stands nearby watching Mama work. A series of hoops constitute part of her headdress.	13"
Subtitle	While "big sister" minds the baby.	5"
Scene	A little girl about 6 years old carries the baby on her back, while Mamam makes supper - closeup of her as she turns slowly to give us a good view of her labor of love.	10"
Subtitle	The women are never idle.	6"
Scene	Closeup of native woman, an earthen jar hanging from her back. Her hands are busy weaving a basket.	9"
Scene	Closeup of her hands as she weaves - we notice in the closeup, the custom of the women and men in wearing iron rings around her arms - these ornaments are a sign of "beauty."	11"
Subtitle	The "Old Swimming Hole."	4"
Scene	Three kiddies enjoy a swim in a water hole of a neighboring stream. Kids are kids all over the world and as these are no exception, they have the time of their lives.	9"
Subtitle	Introducing the Gold Dust Triplets.	4"

Scene	The three boys come out of the water for a minute - they give us the im pression of the "Gold Dust" characters - then they splash in again for more fun.	8ft
Subtitle	The Harvest Dance. Held each year in honor of the Rain God.	9"
Scene	Full view of a large circle of natives performing Harvest Dance. The scene has a nice background of waving palms. The dancers all wear cowls made of matted corn husks.	18"
Subtitle	They look like a lot of tamales on legs, don't they?	7"
Scene	Another view of the dance which consists of a continuous movement in a circle. It now breaks up into the form of a snake dance which gradually winds its way off the scene.	22"
Subtitle	Each tribe has a method of making its own.	6"
Scene	Medium view of two natives busily engaged in cutting down cane stalks, which are piled on the ground.	9"
Subtitle	Sugar cane is the basis of this concoction.	5"
Scene	Still chopping down the stalks with very sharp knives. It takes but one swish with the knife and a stalk falls to the ground.	7"
Subtitle	After stripping the cane is dropped into hollow logs and mashed.	8"
Scene	Three natives chop up the cane into hollows of tree trunks which serve as retainers.	16"
Subtitle	Handfulls of this mash are then bound with bark strips and wrung out.	7"
Scene	The men now prepare the chopped up cane for extracting the juice. It is a novel home brew process.	20"
Subtitle	Nature is kind enough to supply a gourd funnel for filtering.	7"
Scene	They use the funnel which resembles a huge acorn hollowed out, to filter the brew from one container to another.	12"
Subtitle	Native yeast is then added to give it a rising inflection.	7"
Scene	Still preparing the brew.	19"
Subtitle	---- and when the concoction has worked itself up to the point of "authority," they souse themselves into a state of insensibility.	13"

Scene	They pour out drinks for themselves and brighten up immediately. They sure like it.	20ft
Subtitle	When a native is taken ill he is dragged to a Medicine Man. The old faker spreads his "medicine" on a bull skin.	14"
Scene	The sick man is dragged into view and is made to sit on part of the bull skin. The Medicine Man is all spread out waiting for the victim. The patient is deathly ill. The Medicine Man feels his head, presumably for fever.	8"
Subtitle	Horns of the Kongoni are thought to be imbued with life. These are passed around the patient to see if he will respond.	18"
Scene	The Medicine Man does this, swishing the horns close to either side of his face, underneath his arms and his sides. Patient still does not become better. Other measures are necessary.	28"
Subtitle	If the horns have no effect, the afflicted one confesses his sins to a little stick.	10"
Scene	The Medicine Man points the end of a little stick to the patient's mouth, takes it away and repeats it, then throws the stick into the stream nearby.	10"
Subtitle	He is next offered small pieces of meat.	8"
Scene	Little bits of meat are prepared by the Medicine Man who forces him to take some. He isn't anxious to eat anything, of course, and they watch him closely. Then repeat the performance.	22"
Subtitle	Having refused meat, he is offered goat's milk.	5"
Scene	They give him milk from a wooden bowl - he is forced to drink and foams at the mouth.	7"
Subtitle	If the patient refuses food and drink, the case looks hopeless -- but the medicine man does not give up. He tries his magic pebbles.	15"
Scene	The Medicine Man now takes a long narrow jar, and shakes out a pile of pebbles and then sorts out and arranges them into piles of different sizes- the sick man shields his face from the sun - Finally the m.m. selects one of the piles, gathers them up and exhibits them to the sick man. He is not satisfied with one sorting, however, and and re-arranges the pebbles once more.	26"
Subtitle	The Medicine Man alone knows what the pebbles portend, but the next procedure is placing green branches under the arms and through the lobes of the ear. If they fail to come together -- he is doomed.	26"

Scene	The Medicine Man tries his last resort with the green brances, but this fails and the man is beyond his ken.	20ft
Subtitle	It is considered contagious to touch the dead; therefore there are no burials. So off to the jungle for the hyenas.	18"
Scene	They drag the dying man off into the woods, carefully covering his body.	14"
Subtitle	A rude shelter is built over him by his friends.	6"
Scene	Gathering loose branches they build a tent like covering for him. By this time he is almost completely sheltered by the branches. His friends now proceed to build a fire near him.	44"
Subtitle	As a matter of form a fire is built to keep the hyenas away, until after death.	12"
Scene	They kindle a fire and a column of smoke arises to keep the wild animals of the jungle away. His friend keeps him company nearby to wait for the end. The sick man leans toward the fire as if to draw some warmth from it.	12"
Subtitle	---- awaiting the grim reaper.	5"
Subtitle	While the hyenas lurk in the jungle awaiting the dark.	8"
Scene	Shot of the foregoing scene. They wait for night and the end.	5"
Subtitle	The Wakamba Ngoma is the great social function of the tribe. The men are proud, fearless and strong ----	13"
Scene	Fade in - close view of a group of dancers bedecked in regalias and ornaments of different kinds - blowing whistles and pounding tom toms - calling to the rest of the dancers.	9"
Subtitle	This dance is held on moonlight nights. Each buck blows a screeching whistle and pounds a drum which can be heard for miles.	14"
Scene	Closeup of the bucks, screeching, thumping the drums and swaying to and fro in the rhythm of the dance. Other natives stand in the rear and survey the proceedings with awe and delight.	11"
Subtitle	This dance describes itself. It is one of the most uncanny and in Africa.	9"
Scene	The drummers now begin leading the dance and as they proceed they perform a series of jerky dance movements, blowing the whistles and pounding ceaselessly. Some wear feathers in their headgear, others prefer shaven head decorations. Their faces show the frenzy of the dance. The women now line up opposite the men in the old-fashioned cake-walk position and begin to dance.	

Scene	The dance increases in intensity and in closer proximity to one another. They dance shoulder on shoulder and then head to head.	39ft
Subtitle	The savage sense of humor, of course, is very primitive. A Professional Clown who gets a scream with every wink. He is the life of the party.	15"
Scene	Closeup of the "clown" surrounded by his admiring friends - his face is fantastically made up. He grimaces and then hides his foolish face in a feather duster - his friends enjoy him immensely.	16"
Subtitle	He laughs them out of a free living. He does not have to hunt, fight, work or marry. Title dissolves into:	
Subtitle	Maybe he's not as silly as he looks.	19"
Scene	Closeup of the "clown" who gives his best performance in honor of the occasion.	10"
Subtitle	They won't go home until morning!!!	3"
Scene	General view all along the line of the dance.	6"
Subtitle	The End No.1 Paramount-Vanderbergh Wild African Series.	8"

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